In conclusion, the Member expressed the gratitude of the trading classes to the Government for having decided to establish a State-aided Bank in accordance with the suggestions of the Economic Development Board. He expressed the hope that, when the scheme materialised, traders would be in a position to secure loans at low rates of interest on sufficient security and requested that Government might do everything in their power to give effect to the scheme at a very early date.

Dewan's reply.—You have spoken on four matters. The first is the establishment of a tobacco bankshall at Kottayam. There is a large tobacco bankshall at Alleppey and Alleppey is not more than twenty miles from Kottayam. I do not think that you have made out a case for the establishment of a separate bankshall at Kottayam.

You next refer to the improvement of the market landing at Kottayam. In regard to this, an estimate has already been sanctioned, lands are being acquired and there is provision for the work in the budget of the currrent year. The work is being attended to, and, I am sure, the Chief Engineer will see that it is completed as soon as possible.

You then request that two roads *viz.*, roads leading to the market landing and the Cutcherry landing, might be levelled and improved. That ought to be done by the Municipality. But, as I said in my Address, the question as to how Municipalities and the Government should share in the construction of roads has to be solved. That has been solved in the case of the Alleppey Municipality; and other Municipalities like Kottayam and Quilon will, I trust, soon come to some understanding with the Government in regard to the construction and maintenance of roads within their limits. When such an arrangement is effected, the roads in question will receive early attention. Lastly, the proposed establishment of the State-aided Bank will, no doubt, be of considerable help in the financing of trade and industries. As regards the actual establishment of that bank, however, I must say the matter lies entirely in your own hands. If you, gentlemen, who are interested in trade and commerce will subscribe the necessary share capital, the bank will be established, and the sooner you do it, the better.

31. Enhancement of Kudivila for old allom.

Mr. K. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar (Member, Nominated) represented that all the salt required for consumption in the State, amounting to nearly 10½ lakhs of *maunds*, could be manufactured in the State itself. At present, nearly 8 lakhs of *maunds* of salt was being manufactured in the factories of South Travancore. The Tamaracolam old factory measuring 35 acres yielded nearly 1,50,000 *maunds* annually, at the rate of about 43 *maunds* per cent. If the 432 acres now under salt manufacture were made to yield at the rate of 28 *maunds* per one cent, it would suffice to meet the entire requirement of the country. The licensees of the old *allom* had converted the lands over which they had proprietory rights into salt pans and they had been given *pattas* therefor. But the Salt Regulation and the Rules framed thereunder reduced them to a position of mere tenants or lessees. Their dues were not properly paid and the necessary public works were not carried out by the Government. In a word, they were denied proprietory rights over their pans and the result was that the licensees became indifferent and left the pans to the actual cultivators, particularly as the proceeds of the pans hardly covered even the cost of labour. The Member suggested the following remedial measures :—

(1) The licensees of the Tamaracolam old *allom* should be treated as proprietors.

(2) The *kudivila* rates should be increased so far as those licensees were concerned.

(3) The present system of storage of salt which only served to spoil the quality of the salt by being allowed to be largely mixed with mud should be abandoned.

(4) The pans should be preserved by means of protective works from the inrush of fresh water.

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Dewan's reply.—I am unable to give any reply with regard to *kudivila* and other matters, as so many records have to be looked into and as you have not given me previous notice.

In regard to the works connected with the fresh water channel, the Chief Engineer has been instructed to complete them early.

32. Supply of salt for the Muvattupuzha taluk from the Munambam depot instead of from the Alleppey Port Salt depot as at present.

Mr. J. Padmanabha Kammatti (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that, as the result of a conversation he had with the Excise Commissioner on the subject of his representation, the latter had agreed to consider his request favourably, and that, therefore, he did not wish to press his request at the Assembly.

33. Evils arising from the use of intoxicants and the desirability of Government adopting remedial measures.

Mr. R. Raman Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) stated that, although he had made representations on that very subject in some previous sessions of the Assembly, the only step taken by the Government in the interests of temperance was to change the hours of the sale of liquors from 6 A. M. to 9 P. M. to 6 A. M. to 8 P. M.

The Member pointed out that all over the world the Governments were co-operating with the people in their attempt to put down the drink evil and said that he was gratified to know that the Travancore Government also realised that the use of intoxicants would undermine the moral and material welfare of the people and that their avowed policy was based upon such realisation. Certain activities of the Government, however, had led the people to doubt whether the Government were not doing just the reverse of what they declared it to be their policy in that matter. The Member referred to the following by way of illustrations :—

(1) The Ezhava leaders of the anti-tapping movement were being harassed by the Government and steps were being taken to train men of other classes in the profession of tapping.

(2) The men who tried to prevent the sale of abkari shops were being proceeded against under Section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code and confidential orders were being issued to the Magistrates to see that such cases were disposed of expeditiously.

(3) Mr. Madhavan, a Vakil of the Haripad Munsiff's Court, was arrested and prosecuted for preaching temperance.

(4) Mr. Kesavan, an Inspector of the Excise Department, was placed on special duty to conduct the auction sale of abkari shops.

The Member thought that it was the duty of the Government to associate themselves with all movements to suppress the drink evil. He quoted the example of America where absolute prohibition was said to prevail and also some of the Indian States whose Governments were co-operating with the people in their fight against the demon of drink. A similar duty was cast upon the Travancore Government also and the Member urged the adoption of the necessary measures for bringing about temperance among the people. The apprehension that prohibition would cause a fall in the State revenue could not be entertained in the light of the fact that a sober population which did not waste its earnings would be better able to stand the strain of heavier taxation.

The Member then suggested the adoption of the following measures:—

(1) the non-intervention of the Government in the anti-tapping movement headed by Ezhavas ;

(2) the administration of the Excise Department on lines calculated to reduce the sale of intoxicants, including not only toddy and arrack, but also opium and ganja ;

(3) the early adoption of the policy of "local option" by Municipalities ;

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